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lost their elasticity; he had no desire to be useful; being so long without any object in view but his own gratification, he now cared for nothing else. He was unused to reflection, and was only actuated by the feelings of the moment. The first effervescence of gratitude had long since subsided, and he received the intelligence of changing his place of abode, with a forced politeness, though obviously with ill-humour and discontent; his friend now perceived that he had acted imprudently by inducing Morland to spend the prime of his life in idleness, and perceiving his sentiments by his looks, encouraged him to employ his present time in making up for so much leisure.—They parted but not cordially; necessity made Morland exert himself, and it was long before he out-grew the bad habits he had acquired. His friend was soon forgotten. The advice Stanley had given Morland at the last parting more than counterbalanced the years of satisfaction he had passed. Had Morland possessed a sounder judgment, and given himself time to reflect, he would not have felt such lively feelings of gratitude at first; he would perceive his friend's benevolent heart was gratified by treating him kindly, and he would have endeavoured to be useful to his benefactor while he resided with him, and have used every exertion to get into some employment however trifling, as much for the sake of making himself an useful member of the community, as of becoming independent; not to lessen his debt of gratitude to his friend, but to be better satisfied with himself. Z.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

THE TRIUMPHS OF WAR....A DIALOGUE.

**A**S I was riding along the high-road a few days ago with a newspaper in my hand, reading the *glorious exploits* of some of our great men, I overtook a girl with a child on her back, hardly able to walk; the following dialogue took place.—

*Gentleman.* Where are you going my good girl, you seem sadly tired?

*Girl.* I am going to the County Tyrone, sir.

*Gentleman.* Where is your husband?

*Girl.* He is gone to Spain, and I have not a farthing to support myself and poor child that is now crying on my back with hunger; and what is worse, I am sure I shall never see my husband again, for there is such dreadful tidings in the newspaper. The army have suffered the greatest distress in Spain (tears ran down her cheeks as she spoke.)

I gave her a trifle and rode on, and began to read, but the news which had before appeared so glorious, now filled me with horror. I thought of the many poor creatures left widows and orphans merely to gratify the unfeeling cravings of ambition.

M.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

ON MEDIOCRITY.

**I** AM particularly fond of seeing mediocrity well applied. By mediocrity, I mean a person who possesses moderate talents and moderate fortune, contributing moderately to his happiness. His talents must neither be wasted in idleness, nor extravagantly lavished by affecting to show more genius than he really possesses. In the one case he is generally reputed stupid and really becomes so; in the other he renders himself ridiculous after a short flourish. But if all is managed well, a man with a tolerable understanding may gain a good stock of wisdom, and be a reasonable, instructive companion. With a moderate taste, well directed under the guidance of that understanding, he will feel real pleasure himself, and afford pleasure to others.

With moderate wealth he can benefit the poor, and render his household comfortable; by indulging no immoderate expectations and hopes, the occurrences of life will make him moderately happy. A man, thus directed by reason, will possess far more happiness, than the man whose mind is more richly furnished, and who has more wealth, but who manages badly. Is it not a more pleasing sight to see a small, plain house, kept neat, than a large, highly ornamented